

## REVIEWS

**Selden's Everyman's Garden Every Week\***

Mr. Selden has written a very useful little book which is full of information for the amateur gardener. Its introductory chapters are upon cold weather planning and reading; saving the family purse; garden soils, good and bad; tools that are essential; garden eugenics; water whenever needed; garden mistakes of various sorts; and taking planting cues from nature. These are followed by chapters describing work which may be done to advantage during every week from early April until November, and the book concludes with chapters on indoor work and suggestions for the garden calendar. The book is packed full of suggestions, directions and remarks concerning garden crops of all kinds, and cannot fail to be of great service to a large constituency.

N. L. BRITTON.

BLACKMAN, V. H. AND PAINE, S. G., *A Recording Transpirometer*, Ann. Bot. 28: 109-113, 1914, describe an ingenious device for automatically recording the loss of water from a plant. The properly prepared potted plant is placed on the left-hand pan of a balance and counter-poised. Nearby is a water reservoir with a tube placed so as to discharge a uniform series of drops directly over an opening in the cover of a flower pot. When the experiment is started a small vertical funnel, attached to a horizontal metal tube, intercepts the drops and discharges them into a waste vessel. The metal tube passes through two solenoids placed end to end. As water is lost by the plant the left-hand balance pan rises and finally, by means of a mercury cup attached, makes an electric contact, closing the circuit through the further one of the two solenoids. This draws back the metal tube, and water drops now fall into the flower pot. As the left pan descends the circuit is broken, but drops continue to fall into the pot until the rising right pan, by means of an arrangement similar to that on the left pan, closes an electric circuit through the near solenoid, thus moving the tube back into its original position.

\* Selden, C. A. *Everyman's Garden Every Week*, pp. 1-338, small octavo. Dodd, Mead & Company, 1914.

Every time the left pan closes its circuit a portion of the current passes through the magnet of a recording pen, marking on a revolving drum. The wires with which the mercury cups make contact can be raised or lowered, thus varying the interval at which the marks are made. The movement of the balance is steadied by means of a disc fastened beneath one of the pans and moving up and down in a heavy liquid. A number of records can be traced simultaneously on the drum, so that it is possible to set up two or more plants under different conditions, together with an evaporimeter beside every plant and automatically record the water loss from each on the same drum. The apparatus is obtainable from Messrs. Baird & Tatlock, Cross Street, Hatton Garden, London, E.C.

It is perhaps asking too much that the fashioners of a beautiful piece of apparatus should also present a handsome series of results obtained with their invention. Yet it is difficult to repress altogether a feeling of resentment in viewing the one puny record contributed by the authors.

W. G. M.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

FEBRUARY 10, 1914

The first meeting of the Club in February was held February 10, 1914, at the American Museum of Natural History at 8:15 P.M. President Harper presided. Twenty-four persons were present. Mr. Charles Van Loan's resignation was tendered to the Club and accepted.

President Harper asked for permission to appoint a series of special committees to study the Cryptogamic flora of the vicinity of New York. Vice-President Barnhart then took the chair and opened the matter for discussion. Dr. Howe made a motion to grant President Harper the permission requested. The motion was unanimously carried.

The business program was then followed by an illustrated lecture on "The International Phytogeographical Excursion of 1913," by Dr. George E. Nichols. Dr. Nichols will publish a short account of the Expedition in *TORREYA* for April.

Meeting adjourned.

MICHAEL LEVINE,

*Sec. pro tem.*